

--24. A topical formulation for the treatment of a dermatological condition which comprises a macrocyclic lactone antibiotic, immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof and a permeation modulator which are present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.

25. The formulation of claim 24 comprising up to 10% by weight of the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or the immunosuppressive macrolide or analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof and 1 to 60% by weight of the permeation modulator.

26. The formulation of claim 24 wherein the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic is erythromycin, azithromycin or clarithromycin.

27. The formulation of claim 24 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is sirolimus, FK506 or SDZ ASM 981.

28. The formulation of claim 24 wherein the permeation modulator is an alkanoic acid or alkenic acid.

29. The formulation of claim 24 wherein the alkanoic acid or alkenic acid is capric acid, octanoic acid or oleic acid.

30. The formulation of claim 24 wherein the dermatological condition is psoriasis, alopecia, eczema dermatitis, lichen planus, lupus erthematosus, pyoderma gangrenosum, vitiligo, graft versus host disease, pustular skin infections, bacterial skin infections or acne vulgaris.

31. The formulation of claim 30 wherein the dermatological condition is eczema dermatitis and the concentration of macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or immunosuppressive macrolide is 0.05% to 2% by weight.

32. The formulation of claim 24 wherein the permeation modulator is used in conjunction with a solvent system.

33. The formulation of claim 32 wherein the solvent system comprises an aromatic alcohol or a biologically acceptable benzene derivative, with or without an admixture of monoglycerides and a fatty acid ester.

34. The formulation of claim 32 wherein the solvent system comprises an aromatic alcohol or a biologically acceptable benzene derivative, with or without an admixture of a fatty acid ester.

35. The formulation of claim 32 wherein the permeation modulator comprises capric acid and the solvent system comprises benzyl alcohol.

36. The formulation of claim 32 wherein the concentration of the solvent system is 5% to 90% by weight.

37. The formulation of claim 24 further comprising a thickening agent.